

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 24, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-15 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 16 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-16 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by EP 1071296 to Leroy (hereinafter Leroy). The rejection is traversed as being based on a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features clearly recited in claims 1-15, and newly added claim 16.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-10 depend, recites a method of forwarding a data packet to a connection-oriented network. The method includes broadcasting the data packet from a routing device to a plurality of access devices of a connection-oriented network using a broadcast address and checking at each of the plurality of access devices whether a multicast destination address of the data packet is supported. The method also includes forwarding the data packet from a supporting one of the plurality of access devices to the multicast destination address.

Claim 11, upon which claims 12-14 depend, recites an access device for forwarding a data packet in a connection-oriented network. The access device includes a detecting unit configured to detect a predetermined broadcast address added to the data

packet and a checking unit configured to check whether a multicast destination address of the multicast data packet is supported by the access device. The access device also includes a forwarding unit configured to forward the data packet to the multicast destination address in response to the checking means.

Claim 15 recites a routing device for forwarding a data packet to a connection-oriented network. The routing device includes checking means for checking whether the data packet requires a multicast transmission and addressing means for adding a predetermined broadcast address to the data packet if the checking means determines that the data packet requires a multicast transmission. The routing device also includes forwarding the data packet from the routing device to a plurality of access devices of a connection-oriented network using the broadcast address.

As outlined below, the cited reference of Leroy does not teach or suggest the all of the elements of the pending claims.

Leroy describes a method of multicasting data packets via the Internet and a GPRS network to mobile stations. When an Internet server or terminal transmits Internet data packets addressed to members of an Internet multicast group, an Internet multicast address recognition device in GGSN detects that the received internet data packet is addressed to a multicast group by recognizing the Internet multicast address in the destination address field of the Internet data packet. Based on a multicast address table, a private multicast address associated with the Internet multicast address is retrieved and

used by the GGSN to forward the data packet to the addressed multicast group. See at least Col. 9, line 35- Col. 10, line 3 of Leroy.

Applicants submit that Leroy does not teach or suggest each of the features recited in the pending claims. Each of independent claims 1, 11 and 15, in part recites checking at each of the plurality of access devices whether a multicast destination address of the data packet is supported and forwarding the data packet from a supporting one of the plurality of access devices to the multicast destination address. Leroy does not teach or suggest these features.

The Office Action alleged that the access point, recited in the pending claims, is equivalent to the GGSN of Leroy. However, the access point, recited in the pending claims, is different from the GGSN of Leroy. Leroy discloses that the GGSN must be able to relate the IP multicast address to the private multicast address of the GPRS network based on the address recognition device. Leroy does not teach or suggest the case where the GGSN cannot resolve the Internet multicast address. It is clear from the disclosure of Leroy that the GGSN must be able to relate the IP multicast address to the private multicast address of the GPRS network based on an address recognition device. The GGSN and the routing node, of Leroy, are not considered to execute the same procedures as the access devices and the supporting access device, as recited in the pending claims. The cellular access points of the claimed invention cannot be compared to the GGSN of Leroy, since the function of the cellular access points of the claimed invention corresponds to the function of a base station.

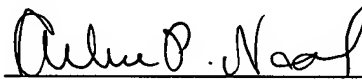
The present invention as claimed covers the case where the destination address cannot be resolved at the routing device. In an embodiment of the invention, the routing device of the present application generates a frame with a broadcast link layer address which can be sent in broadcast, and every host attached to the link can pick up the frame. Such a broadcast function in the sense that every network node attached to the link can pick up the frame is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Leroy. As noted above, Leroy does not cover the case where the GGSN cannot resolve the Internet multicast address. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) should be withdrawn because Leroy does not teach or suggest each feature of claims 1, 11 and 15 and hence, dependent claims 2-10 and 12-15 thereon.

As noted previously, claims 1-16 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-16 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
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